

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:
a body ~~capable of being coupled~~ comprising a clamp for coupling the body to the deployment member;
a sensor system positioned within the body, wherein the sensor system is optical based;
at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall; and
a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system.
- 2-4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one sensor system carrier coupled to the sensor system, and wherein the biasing mechanism contacts the sensor system carrier to displace the sensor system.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the sensor system carrier comprises at least one node for contacting the wall.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the sensor system carrier comprises a first and second component affixed around the sensor system.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising first and second sensor system carriers coupled to the sensor system, and wherein the biasing mechanisms contact the first and second sensor system carriers to displace the sensor system.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first and second sensor system carriers are positioned on opposite ends of the sensor system.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:

a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;

a sensor system positioned within the body;

at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall;

a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system; and

first and second sensor system carriers coupled to the sensor system, wherein the biasing mechanisms contact the first and second sensor system carriers to displace the sensor system, wherein the first sensor system carrier comprises one node for contacting the wall, and wherein the second sensor system carrier comprises two nodes for contacting the wall.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the biasing mechanism comprises a spring.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:

a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;

a sensor system positioned within the body;

at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall, wherein the biasing mechanism comprises a magnet; and

a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:

a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;

a sensor system positioned within the body;
at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall; and
a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system, wherein the release mechanism comprises a dissolvable polymer.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the dissolvable polymer dissolves in fluid within the well.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:

a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;
a sensor system positioned within the body;
at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall; and
a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system, wherein the release mechanism comprises a rupture disk.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the rupture disk is actuated by hydrostatic pressure of fluid within the well.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:

a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;
a sensor system positioned within the body;
at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall;
a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system; and
at least one guiding mechanism to direct the sensor system as it is deployed.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises a pin.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the pin is located on the body.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the pin has an elastomer disposed thereon to acoustic isolate the sensor system from the body.
21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:
a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;
a sensor system positioned within the body, wherein the sensor system is optical based;
at least one means for displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall;
at least one means for guiding the sensor system as it is displaced; and
a means for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the body further comprises an attachment mechanism for coupling the body to the deployment member.
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a clamp.
25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising at least one sensor system carrier coupled to the sensor system, and wherein the means for biasing contacts the sensor system carrier to displace the sensor system.
26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the sensor system carrier comprises at least one node for contacting the wall.
27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the sensor system carrier comprises a first and second component affixed around the sensor system.
28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising first and second sensor system carriers coupled to the sensor system, and wherein the means

for biasing contacts the first and second sensor system carriers to displace the sensor system.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the first and second sensor system carriers are positioned on opposite ends of the sensor system.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the first sensor system carrier comprises one node for contacting the wall, and wherein the second sensor system carrier comprises two nodes for contacting the wall.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for biasing comprises a spring.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for biasing comprises a magnet.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for actuating comprises a dissolvable polymer.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for actuating comprises a rupture disk.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 21, wherein the means for guiding comprises a pin.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the pin is located on the body.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the pin has an elastomer disposed thereon to acoustic isolate the sensor system from the body.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for acoustically coupling a sensor system to a wall of a well having a deployment member positioned therein, comprising:
a body capable of being coupled to the deployment member;
a sensor system positioned within the body;

at least one biasing mechanism capable of displacing the sensor system away from the deployment member and toward the wall; and

at least one guiding pin interfacing with the sensor system for directing the sensor system as it is displaced.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the sensor system is fiber optic based.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the body further comprises an attachment mechanism for coupling the body to the deployment member.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a clamp.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising at least one sensor system carrier coupled to the sensor system, and wherein the biasing mechanism contacts the sensor system carrier to displace the sensor system.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the sensor system carrier comprises at least one node for contacting the wall.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the sensor system carrier comprises a first and second component affixed around the sensor system.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising first and second sensor system carriers coupled to the sensor system, and wherein the biasing mechanisms contact the first and second sensor system carriers to displace the sensor system.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the first and second sensor system carriers are positioned on opposite ends of the sensor system.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the first sensor system carrier comprises one node for contacting the wall, and wherein the second sensor system carrier comprises two nodes for contacting the wall.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the biasing mechanism comprises a spring.
50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the biasing mechanism comprises a magnet.
51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising a release mechanism for actuating the biasing mechanism to displace the sensor system.
52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the release mechanism comprises a dissolvable polymer.
53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the release mechanism comprises a rupture disk.
54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the guiding pin is located on the body.
55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising a guide hole coupled with the sensor system for interfacing with the guiding pin.
56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the pin has an elastomer disposed thereon to acoustic isolate the sensor system from the body.
57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the guiding pin is substantially perpendicular to an axis of the deployment member.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 15, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 15, 2006.

Claims 1, 5-21, 23-34, and 36-57 remain pending in the application after entry of this response and are shown above. Claims 2-4, 22, and 35 have been canceled by the Applicants. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, 21, 23, 25, 27-29, and 31 are rejected, and Claims 4, 6, 24, 26, 30, and 32-38 are objected to. Claims 10, 12-20, and 39-57 are allowed by the Examiner. Claims 1, 21, and 36 have been amended. No new material has been added by the amendments. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, 21, 23, 25, 27-29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Coates et al.* (applied in previous office action) in view of *Nutt et al.* 2003/0179651. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Regarding claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, and 11, *Coates* and *Nutt*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest or disclose a body comprising a clamp for coupling the body to the deployment member as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over *Coates* in view of *Nutt*. Applicant further submits that claims 3, 5, 7-9, and 11 are also patentable over *Coates* in view of *Nutt* since they depend on claim 1.

Regarding claims 21, 23, 25, 27-29, and 31, *Coates* and *Nutt*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose at least one means for guiding the sensor system as it is displaced as recited in amended claim 21. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable over *Coates* in view of *Nutt*. Applicant further submits that claims 23, 25, 27-29, and 31 are also patentable over *Coates* in view of *Nutt* since they depend on claim 21.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, 21, 23, 25, 27-29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Coates et al.* (applied above) in view of *Pearce et al.* 20020097637. Regarding claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, and 11, *Coates* and *Pearce*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose a body comprising a clamp for coupling the body to the deployment member as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over *Coates* in view of *Pearce*. Applicant further submits that claims 3, 5, 7-9, and 11 are also patentable over *Coates* in view of *Pearce* since they depend on claim 1.

Regarding claims 21, 23, 25, 27-29, and 31, *Coates* and *Pearce*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose at least one means for guiding the sensor system as it is displaced as recited in amended claim 21. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable over *Coates* in view of *Pearce*. Applicant further submits that claims 23, 25, 27-29, and 31 are also patentable over *Coates* in view of *Pearce* since they depend on claim 21.

Claims 1, 3, 11, 21, 23, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Blacklaw* GB 2311796 (applied in previous office action) in view of *Nutt et al.* 20030179651. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Regarding claims 1, 3, and 11, *Blacklaw* and *Nutt*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose a body comprising a clamp for coupling the body to the deployment member as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Nutt*. Applicant further submits that claims 3 and 11 are also patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Nutt* since they depend on claim 1.

Regarding claims 21, 23, and 31, *Blacklaw* and *Nutt*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose at least one means for guiding the sensor system as it is displaced as recited in amended claim 21. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Nutt*. Applicant further submits that claims 23 and 31 are also patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Nutt* since they depend on claim 21.

Claims 1, 3, 11, 21, 23, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Blacklaw* (described above) in view of *Pearce et al.* 2002/0097637. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Regarding claims 1, 3, and 11, *Blacklaw* and *Pearce*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose a body comprising a clamp for coupling the body to the deployment member as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Pearce*. Applicant further submits that claims 3 and 11 are also patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Pearce* since they depend on claim 1.

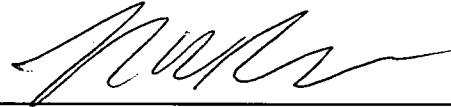
Regarding claims 21, 23, and 31, *Blacklaw* and *Pearce*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose at least one means for guiding the sensor system as it is displaced as recited in amended claim 21. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Pearce*. Applicant further submits that claims 23 and 31 are also patentable over *Blacklaw* in view of *Pearce* since they depend on claim 21.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 21, and 36. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 21, and 36 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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